

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 215626

FOR AMBASSADOR TOM CLINGAN USLOS DEL

FOLLOWING REPEAT OF NASSAU 1793 SENT ACTION SECSTATE AUG 23.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1793

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS, BF
SUBJ: FISHING BOAT INCIDENT

1. I BELIEVE THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT ON EVENING OF AUGUST 22 MIAMI AND FT. LAUDERDALE TV STATIONS CARRIED ON THEIR LOCAL NEWS BROADCASTS INFORMATION THAT FISHERMEN IN MIAMI AREA CONTINUE TO BE UPSET OVER BAHAMIAN RESTRAINTS ON FISHING. NEWS PROGRAMS WENT ON TO SAY THAT DEMONSTRATIONS AROUND BAHAMIAN CONSULAR OFFICE IN MIAMI ARE EXPECTED. NEWS-MEN ALSO HAD INTERVIEW WITH ATTORNEY MAURICE DILIBERTO OF THE MIAMI INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES CORP. DILIBERTO SAID THAT IT WAS UNREASONABLE FOR USG NOT TO HAVE AN AGREEMENT WORKED OUT WITH GCOB WHEN WE HAVE A FISHING AGREEMENT WORKED OUT WITH CUBANS, AS DILIBERTO PUT IT, "... WITH WHOM WE'RE NOT ON VERY GOOD TERMS." NEWS ALSO STATED THAT DILIBERTO INDICATED HE HAD WRITTEN PRESIDENT CARTER ABOUT THIS MATTER. FISHERMEN
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WERE QUOTED AS SAYING THAT IF PRESIDENT CARTER CAN BRING SADAT AND BEGIN TOGETHER, HE CERTAINLY SHOULD BE ABLE TO BRING THE FLORIDA FISHERMEN AND GCOB TOGETHER.

2. MORNING NEWSPAPER, THE NASSAU GUARDIAN, OF AUGUST 23 REPORTED THAT TWO BAHAMIAN FISHING VESSELS WERE RECENTLY FORCED TO FLEE FROM THE GREAT BAHAMA BANK AFTER A CONFRONTATION WITH

CUBAN-AMERICAN FISHING VESSELS IN THE AREA. BAHAMIAN DEFENSE OFFICIALS COULD NOT STATE WHETHER CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE FISHING VESSELS WAS VIOLENT, INVOLVING GUNFIRE, OR WHETHER THE VESSELS INVOLVED ATTEMPTED TO RAM ONE ANOTHER. INVESTIGATION IS BEING MADE.

3. THE MAJOR POINT OF REPORTING THIS IS TO STRESS TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT IN MY JUDGMENT THE GCOB IS NOT -- REPEAT NOT -- GOING TO BE FORCED INTO A FISHERIES AGREEMENT AT THIS TIME. I PERSONALLY HOPE TO SEE THIS ISSUE RESOLVED, BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IT CAN BE UNTIL OTHER PENDING NEGOTIATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS ON BASES, POSSIBLE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, AND POSSIBLE RUNWAY EXTENSION AT GOVERNOR'S HARBOR ARE RESOLVED. IT MAY BE THAT USG WOULD WANT TO GIVE SOME CONSIDERATION TO INCLUDING SETTLEMENT OF THE FISHERIES ISSUE WHILE IT IS HANDLING THESE OTHER ITEMS. THIS DECISION RESTS WITH THE NEGOTIATORS AND THE DEPARTMENT, BUT I MUST GIVE MY OWN EVALUATION OF THE SITUATION AS I SEE IT NOW. GCOB SIMPLY DOES NOT -- REPEAT NOT -- WANT TO DISCUSS THIS FISHERIES SITUATION NOW. THIS HAS BEEN MADE CLEAR TO ME, TO AMBASSADOR TOM CLINGAN, AMBASSADOR TODMAN, SENATOR STONE, AND OTHERS. UNLESS USG HAS SOME NEW "WRINKLES," I URGE THAT THE DEPARTMENT CONTINUE TO ATTEMPT TO GET CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION FROM FLORIDA AS WELL AS SUCH PEOPLE AS MAURICE DILIBERTO TO UNDERSTAND THAT CONSTANTLY PURSUING THIS AT THIS TIME -- REPEAT AT THIS TIME -- IS ILL ADVISED.

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4. I PERSONALLY WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS FROM DEPARTMENT AND REQUEST THAT THIS CABLE BE MADE AVAILABLE TO AMBASSADOR TOM CLINGAN. SCHWARTZ
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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